

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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VA unveils updated designs for new Omaha medical center

OMAHA, Neb. — Department of Veteran Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System officials unveiled an updated design for a replacement medical center in Omaha at 4101 Woolworth Avenue during an open house Nov. 10.

The approximately 1 million-square-foot medical center, a joint venture between architecture/engineering firms LEO A DALY and NBBJ, will include new patient units, diagnostic and treatment areas, outpatient clinics, research areas, a central energy plant and more than 1,800 parking stalls onsite. The project will also feature spaces for women's healthcare and mental health services.

A memorial to the region's Veterans is planned as a significant feature, which is planned near 42nd and Center Streets, one of the highest geographical points in the city.

"This is an important milestone in our journey to build a new, state-of-the-art health care facility in Omaha where Veterans will receive exceptional health care to improve their health and well-being," said Nancy Gregory, Acting Director, VA NWIHCS.

The project is estimated to cost more than \$560 million.

"We are proud to collaborate with the Omaha VA and our joint venture partner NBBJ to create a patient-centered facility that will provide the highest level of service to our veterans and their families and honor their service to our country," said Lloyd Meyer, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, LEO A DALY Omaha's managing principal.

The hospital plans consist of six floors, one of which is partially below-grade but exposed to the east side to allow access to natural light and garden areas. A glass atrium, which will serve as the hospital's central spine and visual centerpiece, runs the length of the curved six-story building. The atrium's design will allow for abundant natural light, ease of wayfinding and views of exterior gardens and outdoor space.

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VA MEDICAL CENTER-2/2/2/2

A series of small and large courtyards along the spine will provide outdoor access for patients and staff as part of the campus' healing environment.

Inpatient beds, diagnostic and treatment rooms, and patient and visitor parking are oriented to the east side of the concourse overlooking therapeutic gardens, the Field Club golf course and downtown Omaha.

Evidence-based design features will be used to enhance and sustain the healing environment, with attention given to infection control, privacy, design, safety and family support.

Plans call for four small buildings on the current grounds to be reused and renovated in accordance with current VA standards.

The project will be designed and constructed in accordance with LEED ® Silver standards and incorporate energy-conscious design features that meet or exceed the 30-percent energy consumption savings mandated per the Energy Policy Act.

Although \$56 million was appropriated for the design and planning of the new medical center in fiscal year 2011, funding to begin construction of the new medical center must still be submitted in the VA's future construction budget requests.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>.

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